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14 June 1963

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Deputy Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT : Covert Satellite

REFERENCE : Memorandum for DDNRO from Deputy
Secretary of Defense, same subject, dated
1 June 1963 [redacted]

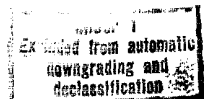
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1. Your referenced memorandum indicated that I had stated that the 5412 Group had assigned to CIA the responsibility for the development of a covert satellite. I believe your source of this information must have been misinformed for I am sure I have at no time stated that the 5412 Group made this assignment. I know perfectly well that the 5412 Group is not the responsible organization to make such an assignment, and therefore, I am certain that I have been misquoted.

2. In connection with our discussions on the FY '64 NRO budget, I was informed by Mr. McCone that you had reached a decision to place this item in the CIA budget. Since that time the CIA has been conducting preliminary studies and discussions with a few contractors on a no expense, but highly secure, basis with a view toward initiating work in this area in the near future. I believe, therefore, that it would be very timely for a joint meeting between DOD, CIA and the NRO in order to make a decision on the assignment of responsibility in this area. Since the major objective of such a program is a truly covert activity, I believe that any discussions of the subject should be limited to a strictly EYES ONLY basis to individuals who have a contribution to make and should not be staffed in a normal fashion.

Very truly yours,
Herbert Scoville, Jr.

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Deputy Director
National Reconnaissance Office




cc: DNRO

Handle via
Control System

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ODDR:HScoville:  (14 June 1963)

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